

Literacy Links

Volume IV, Issue 2

September 2003

Special points of interest:

- Best Practice Seminars
September 24, 25 and
October 8, 9
- Authors on the Beach
September 26, 27
- SC Literacy Conference
December 15, 16
- SC Literary Tour Map
- BookSurge Classroom
Publishing Grants

For information about these programs, please refer to the August issue of *Literacy Links* or check for updates in this issue. Past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at www.myschools.com.

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Say "Good-night," Pat

It is with regret that we announce that Pat Patterson is leaving the State Department to accept a position with Orangeburg District 5 as their ELA Coordinator effective the first of September.

Pat has been with the ELA team for the past two years. During that time, she has coordinated the high school best practice seminars and summer institutes, served as an SDE liaison with the South Carolina Reading Initiative, assisted with the revision of the South Carolina English Language Arts Standards 2002, and supported the South Carolina Bread Loaf Network.

We have enjoyed having Pat as part of the ELA team and wish her the very best in her new adventure!



"The world is all gates, all opportunities, strings of tension waiting to be struck."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Fall 2003 ELA Update

This year's fall ELA update will be conducted by the ELA Team as part of a Curriculum Update that is being hosted by the Office of Curriculum and Standards. The update will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003, from 9:15 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

Our Director, Cindy Saylor, issued an invitation to Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents for Instruction on August 18, 2003, for district representatives to attend this important update. As indicated by the agenda that follows, updates will be offered in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, visual and performing arts, foreign language, physical education, and Academic Plans for Students. Three sessions will be offered each time slot and each session will be repeated in the morning and afternoon.

We will present the ELA update twice that day at 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. We hope that each district's ELA coordinator will be able to attend this important meeting.

If you have questions about the update, please contact J.C. Ballew at 803-734-8389 or jballew@sde.state.sc.us.

Curriculum Update Agenda

9:15—9:45	Registration/Check-In
10:00—3:15	Concurrent Sessions
10:00—11:00	First Session:
ELA Science	Academic Plans
11:15—12:15	Second Session:
Math Social Studies	Visual/Performing Arts
12:15—1:00	Lunch
A box lunch will be provided.	
1:00—2:00	Third Session:
ELA Science	Foreign Language
2:15—3:15	Final Session:
Math Social Studies	Physical Education

2003-04 Middle and High School Best Practice Seminars

Sponsored by the Governor's Institute of Reading at the State Department of Education and the South Carolina Chapter of the International Reading Association

During 2003-04, the Governor's Institute of Reading (GIR), in collaboration with the South Carolina Chapter of the International Reading Association (SCIRA), is sponsoring a series of six best practice seminars on the teaching of reading and writing in the middle grades and high school. For the past three years, the GIR and SCIRA have partnered to provide middle and high school teachers with quality professional development on implementing the English language arts standards in grades 6-12 across all of the content areas.

Attached is a tentative schedule of this year's seminars. Please note that three of the seminars will be offered as pre-conference sessions at the following annual state conferences—South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE), South Carolina Chapter of the International Reading Association (SCIRA), and the South Carolina Middle School Association (SCMSA). We will publish registration information for each seminar one month prior to the scheduled session in *Literacy Links*.

The second seminar, entitled *Writing*

Portfolios, will be held on September 24, 2003, for middle school teachers and September 25, 2003, for high school teachers in the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo. This workshop, presented by Kathleen Yancey, will work with portfolios and reflection to improve writing and learning.

The third seminar, entitled *Using Literature Across the Content Areas*, will be held October 8, 2003, for middle school teachers and October 9, 2003, for high school teachers in the Environmental Education Center at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo. This workshop is presented by Judy Richardson. Now that PACT and Academic Plans for Students encompass science and social studies, as well as language arts and mathematics, this seminar should prove especially helpful to those of you seeking to engage students in reading in the content areas.

All seminars will begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at 3:00 P.M. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M., with coffee being served from 8:30-9:00 A.M. Lunch will be provided. The cost of the seminar is \$50, which will help defray the cost of space, food, and

materials, which will include a book of the presenter's choice.

To register for the seminar, please mail the attached registration form and a check made payable to SCIRA for \$50 for the seminar to Judy Redman at P.O. Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Space is limited to 80 participants. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the seminar. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered.

If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Allison Norwood (high school) at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us or Caroline Savage (middle school) at 803-734-4770 or csavage@sde.state.sc.us.

ELA Assistants Offer Support and More

So that you can put a face with a name, the ELA team would like to introduce you to the women who make us look good. Please call one of them any time you have a question and can't find the team member you need.



Gail Tyndale

Gail works with Suzette Lee and Cathy Jones.
803-734-8556
gtyndale@sde.state.sc.us



Sonya Green

Sonya works with Caroline Savage and Allison Norwood.
803-734-2372
sgreen@sde.state.sc.us



Lillian Winters

Lillian works with Pam Wills, Pat Branham, and Pam Huxford.
803-734-8155
lwinters@sde.state.sc.us

SAT Sets New Standards

The new SAT will set a new and even higher standard than the current test. With the addition of writing and items from Algebra II, students will have to demonstrate mastery of more college success skills than ever before. Most students will be prepared for the new test and ready for college work if their schools are providing rich and varied writing and reading experiences in all content areas and offering at least three years of high school math, including concepts from Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.

The College Board has created a brochure especially for curricu-

lum specialists. *The New SAT and Your School System* includes detailed information on the changes and new SAT sample questions. This brochure can be found at <http://www.collegeboard.com/about/newsat/curriculumspecialists.html>. (This brochure requires Adobe Acrobat Reader; the latest version is recommended.)

You may wish to review some of your academic priorities and sequencing to see if your college-preparatory curriculum is structured to maximize benefits to your college-bound students. The information on the website

includes suggestions for conducting a curriculum audit, reviewing school practices, informing parents and students, and evaluating your system policies to give your students the best chance of success on the new SAT.

Attached to this newsletter is an implementation schedule for the new SAT that outlines all the changes that the students can expect. This flyer will be a great handout for your students and faculty.

If you have any questions about the SAT, contact LaVerne Rodgers at 803-734-6142 or lrodgers@sde.state.sc.us.

**“Pay attention
to the young,
and make
them just as
good as
possible.”**

Socrates

16th Annual Fall Writing Conference

*Sponsored by the Writing Improvement Network and the South Carolina Writing Projects,
co-sponsored by the SC State Department of Education*

The Sixteenth Annual Fall Writing Conference will be held October 15-17, 2003, at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel. The conference, sponsored by the Writing Improvement Network and the South Carolina Writing Projects and co-sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education, will showcase workshops and displays by Exemplary Writing Schools and workshops presented by teacher consultants from the South Carolina Writing Projects. Keynote speakers will be Debbie Miller and Harvey Daniels.

Two preconference sessions will be offered on Wednesday afternoon. Heidi Mills, of the University of South Carolina, will do a session entitled *Literature Circles: Principles and Practices that Make a Difference*. Janice Wright, of 6 + 1 Traits of Writing, will do a session of instruction and activities that will support implementation of the 6+1 Traits of Writing. Attendees can choose between these two workshops with registration separate from the conference.

The theme of this year's conference is *Creating a Culture of Literacy*. The 17 South Carolina schools designated as the 2002-2005 Exemplary Writing Schools will receive their awards at the opening session Thursday morning. Exemplary Writing Program school exhibits and publisher exhibits will be open throughout the conference.

Debbie Miller will be the keynote speaker on Thursday. She has worked in the Denver public schools for 30 years and is the author of *Reading for Meaning*, a guide to teaching comprehension strategies. Recently she completed a professional development video series entitled *Happy Reading*.

Harvey Daniels will be the keynote speaker on Friday. Formerly a city and suburban teacher, Daniels now works at the Center for City Schools at National-Louis University in Chicago. He is the author or co-author of 10 books on language, literacy, and school reform, including *A Community of Writers*, *Literature Circles*, *Best Practice*, and *Methods that Matter*.

Teachers and administrators will find a wealth of instructional ideas to take back to the classroom. Join us for a time of professional development and renewal.

The deadline for registering for this fall writing conference is October 1, 2003. A registration form is attached to this newsletter, or you may download the registration flyer at www.scwin.org. If you have any questions, contact Christy Clonts of the Writing Improvement Network at the University of South Carolina at 803-777-0340 or clonts@gwm.sc.edu.

SC Wildlife Essay Competition

Teachers, your students can win prizes and recognition in South Carolina Wildlife magazine's 2003-2004 Young Outdoor Writers' competition.

Students in grades four through 12 are eligible to enter essays; all entries are due no later than November 21, 2003. Students should work with their English, language arts, or science teachers to enter the contest, sponsored by South Carolina Wildlife magazine and the Harry Hampton Fund. Find more information and entry requirements on the S.C. Department of Natural Resources' website at www.dnr.state.sc.us, then click on Education at the left of the screen. This page also has suggested reference materials. Extended guidelines, tips, sample essays, and examples of score sheets and rubric used by YOWC judges

Essay Topic

Imagine yourself standing on top of Sassafras Mountain, the highest point in the state. You are about to take an exciting adventure down from the rooftop of South Carolina—totally by water! You may choose your mode of travel—go as a leaf, an insect in a bottle, or a small toy boat floating with the currents; go as a water droplet subjected to the whims of the water cycle go as a minnow braving the big waters of the state's major reservoirs; or go as yourself in a boat or on a raft you make yourself; or choose something completely different.

Flowing down the South Carolina side of the mountain are several tiny mountain

streams, some feeding into the upper part of Lake Jocassee and some into the upper Saluda River. You will start your journey in one of these tiny streams, then continue either through Lake Jocassee or the Saluda River. Choosing one of these two routes, write an essay of 300 to 500 words describing your water pathway all the way to the ocean.

As you travel down from the mountain, through the piedmont, midlands, and coastal plain, and finally to the ocean, look around you. (Your perspective may depend on how you choose to travel—a fish will notice different things than a kayaker would, for example.) How does the land change as your travel through the five major landforms for that state? Describe the fall line's effect on your travel—how does the river change after passing the fall line? Describe things you see as you pass—towns bridges, national forests, fish and animals, people using the rivers to fish, boat, or swim.

You will need a map of South Carolina clearly showing the state's waterways to help you plan your route.

Be as creative as you want, but be sure to incorporate descriptions of the landscape, changes in the rivers, and specific sights you might see as you float.

Deadlines

A school's one entry per category must be postmarked on or before November 21, 2003, and sent to Caroline Foster, S.C. Wildlife Magazine, P.O. Box 167,

Columbia, SC 29202.

The top three winners from each category will be notified by mail no later than February 23, 2004. Winners will receive their awards in March 2004.

Prizes

First-place winners in each category will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond; second-place winners will receive a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond; and third-place winners will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. Sponsoring teacher(s) of each of the nine statewide winners will receive \$50 cash. The first-place essay in each category will be published in *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.



Teachers Wanted to Pilot Media Literacy Kit

Just Think is partnering with Kenneth Smith, the dynamic high school teacher from Maryland, to develop a groundbreaking Hip Hop and Media Literacy Kit. For those of you who have been fortunate enough to attend one of Kenneth's workshops at the last two NMEC gatherings, you know how compelling and effective his approach is.

Over the course of the next school year, we will pilot the curriculum in five classrooms across the country. We are currently looking for teachers who will integrate the material Kenneth has been developing into their own classroom. In addition to the

materials—lesson plans, handouts, sample video clips and lyrics, production activities, and additional resources—we will provide on-going support and guidance.

We want the participating teachers to reflect both demographic and geographic diversity, and we also expect them to be active partners in the development of the curriculum; a strong feedback loop will be a critical component. We will pay a small stipend. If you are interested, please contact Dave Yanosfsky at just Think, 415-561-2900 or dave@justthink.org.

Curriculum Calibration Invitation

Curriculum Calibration is a method for measuring the degree of alignment of classroom assignments with grade-level state standards. During this past year, the State Department of Education (SDE) funded calibrations for 362 schools (K-8). Each school received a detailed report on the percentage of assignments

aligned to grade-level standards, the breadth of coverage of the various content strands, and the source and type of assignments used in the classrooms.

During the 2003-04 school year, the SDE is again offering Curriculum Calibration to 400 schools (grades 1-8 and se-

lected high school courses in core subject areas) on a voluntary basis. Schools that received a Department-funded calibration last year will not be eligible for another Department-funded calibration this year.

To find out more information about this process and to reg-

ister your school, go to <http://www.myschools.com/offices/cso>. There is no deadline for registration for this calibration.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrea Keim at akeim@sde.state.sc.us or Dr. Pat Mohr at pmohr@sde.state.sc.us.

Office of Assessment Updates

High School Assessment Program (HSAP)

As you know, the tests administered this year were field test forms. HSAP will become operational for students in spring 2004. BSAP will be administered for the last time during summer 2005. Students who have taken BSAP should continue to take BSAP until such time as the test is discontinued.

During the transitional period, passing HSAP or BSAP will satisfy the exit examination requirement. For students who begin under BSAP and complete under HSAP, a combination of passing scores will be accepted. BSAP Reading and BSAP Writing will be considered the equivalent of HSAP ELA.

Once HSAP becomes fully operational, it will be offered to non-passing students each time the test is administered. After a student's fourth attempt, the student who is not accruing units at a minimum of three per academic year, will not take HSAP again until classified as a senior by the district.

The HSAP web page will be continually updated as new reference materials are finalized. These will include answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), an informational brochure, test blueprints, rubrics, quick reference guide, reference sheets, stakeholder statements of expectations, and policies on testing materials and calculator use.

For more information, contact Nancy Whitlock at 803-734-0664 or nwhitlo@sde.state.sc.us.

ELA Expectations Assessed on HSAP

- The student will integrate various cues and strategies to comprehend what he or she reads.
- The student will use a knowledge of the purposes, structures, and elements of writing to analyze and interpret text.
- The student will apply a knowledge of word analysis strategies to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading material and use them correctly.
- The student will use a process approach to write for a variety of purposes.
- The student will select a topic for exploration, gather information from a variety of sources, and use a variety of strategies to prepare and present information.

Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP) Exit Examination

Fall 2003 test dates of 11th and 12th graders are October 28– October 30, with make-up scheduled for October 31– November 7. Writing make-up is on Wednesday, November 5, 2003.

BSAP is scheduled to be administered for the last time in summer 2005.

For information, contact Lane Peeler at 803-734-8282 or lpeeler@sde.state.sc.us.

PACT Spring 2004 Testing Schedule

Tues., May 4	ELA day 1
Wed., May 5	ELA day 2
Thurs., May 6	Mathematics
Tues., May 11	Science or Social Studies

Wed., May 12

ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Field Tests

Mon., May 17

Last Day for Make-ups

Assessment Literacy

The Office of Assessment is producing a television series that will overview the statewide assessments implemented by the State Department of Education, Office of Assessment. Designed for teachers and administrators, the series will be televised on channel 318 during the 2003-2004 school year. For each program, the first broadcast date will be live and will air 9:30 A.M.; the second broadcast will be a rerun of the live program and will air at 3:00 P.M.

Below is the programming schedule for the fall:

- Assessment Overview, 2003-04—August 4 and August 11
- Accommodations and Modifications on the Statewide Assessments: From Policy to Practice—September 25 and October 2
- SCRAPI—October 6 and October 13
- Educational Policy in South Carolina—November 3 and November 10
Guest: Dr. Joanne Anderson, Education Oversight Committee

For more information contact Christina Schneider at 803-734-8534 or cschneid@sde.state.sc.us.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARTS TEAM
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM
AND STANDARDS
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
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www.myschools.com

Literacy Links is a publication of the English Language Arts Team of the South Carolina State Department of Education. It is published once a month and is electronically distributed to districts and schools across the state. Any attachments to this publication will be on the pages following this page.



Literacy Links volume IV

The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

**South Carolina Education Related
Events and Conferences
2003-2004
(as of August 8, 2003)**

SEPTEMBER

- 9 CSO Fall Update Meeting for Districts, State Museum, Columbia
- 10 Reading First Technical Awareness Session, Columbia Conference Center, Columbia
- 12 Global Studies Workshop, Lexington 2 DO, West Columbia
- 13 Global Studies Workshop, Lexington 2 DO, West Columbia
- 14 SC Geographic Alliance Geofest XXVI, USC, Columbia
- 14 Globalization 101, Round Top Elementary, Columbia
- 15 Globalization 101, Round Top Elementary, Columbia
- 17-18 Street Law Training, Sheraton Hotel, Columbia
- 17-19 SCASA 2001 Personnel Administrators Fall Conference, Hyatt Regency, Greenville
- 24 Reading First Technical Awareness Session, Columbia Conference Center, Columbia
- 24-25 Middle/High School Best Practice Series, Saluda Shoals, Columbia
- 26 SDE Textbook Prioritization Meeting, R. L. Bryan, Columbia
- 26-27 We the People...Project Citizen Training, SC Bar, Columbia
- 27 Foreign Language Performance Based Assessment Workshop,

Vista Room, State Museum, Columbia

OCTOBER

- 1-3 Ed Tech 2003, Convention Center, Myrtle Beach
- 2 SC Council for the Social Studies Pre-conference, Springmaid Beach, Myrtle Beach
- 3-4 SC Council for the Social Studies, Springmaid Beach, Myrtle Beach
- 8 Reading First Technical Awareness Session, Columbia Conference Center, Columbia
- 8-9 Middle/High School Best Practice Series, Saluda Shoals, Columbia
- 17-18 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Furman University, Greenville
- 21 Reading First Technical Awareness Session, Columbia Conference Center, Columbia
- 24 Using Children's Literature to Teach Social Studies Workshop, Spartanburg 3 DO, Glendale
- 25 Using Children's Literature to Teach Social Studies Workshop, Rock Hill School District
- 29-30 SC Council for Teachers of Mathematics Conference, Myrtle Beach

Registration Form

2003–04 Middle and High School Best Practice Seminars *Sponsored by the GIR at the SDE and the SCIRA*

Seminar 2: Writing Portfolios ***presented by Kathleen Yancey***

Instructions: To register for this seminar, please complete this form and mail it and a ***check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00*** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the seminar. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net.** If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Allison Norwood (high school) at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us or Caroline Savage (middle school) at 803-734-4770 or csavage@sde.state.sc.us.

Check one.

- ☐ Middle school seminar (September 24, 2003)
- ☐ High school seminar (September 25, 2003)

Please provide the following information.

Name_____

Position_____Grade_____

District_____

School_____

Mailing Address_____

Telephone (_____)_____ Fax (_____)_____

E-mail_____

Home Address_____

Telephone (_____)_____ Fax (_____)_____

E-mail_____

Registration Form

2003–04 Middle and High School Best Practice Seminars *Sponsored by the GIR at the SDE and the SCIRA*

Seminar 3: Using Literature Across the Content Areas ***presented by Judy Richardson***

Instructions: To register for this seminar, please complete this form and mail it and a ***check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00*** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the seminar. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at redman@comporium.net.** If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Allison Norwood (high school) at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us or Caroline Savage (middle school) at 803-734-4770 or csavage@sde.state.sc.us.

Check one.

- ☐ Middle school seminar (October 8, 2003)
- ☐ High school seminar (October 9, 2003)

Please provide the following information.

Name_____

Position_____Grade_____

District_____

School_____

Mailing Address_____

Telephone (_____)_____ Fax (_____)_____

E-mail_____

Home Address_____

Telephone (_____)_____ Fax (_____)_____

E-mail_____

Authors on the Beach #3 Literary Conference
Sponsored by KidConnection
September 26, 27 2003

Please fill out the information below. Fax your reservation to 843-448-0929, e-mail it to KidConnection2002@aol.com, or mail it to KIDCONNECTION, 2970-28 Swan Court, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29577.

Name_____

Home Address_____

Home Phone_____

School _____

School Address_____

Method of Payment: _____ Personal Check, _____ School Check, _____ School P.O.

All checks and school purchase orders are to be made payable to KIDCONNECTION. All registration fees, including checks representing purchase orders, must be received by KidConnection on/or before September 20, 2003. Due to limited seating, all reservations held by KidConnection 2003 will be nonrefundable.